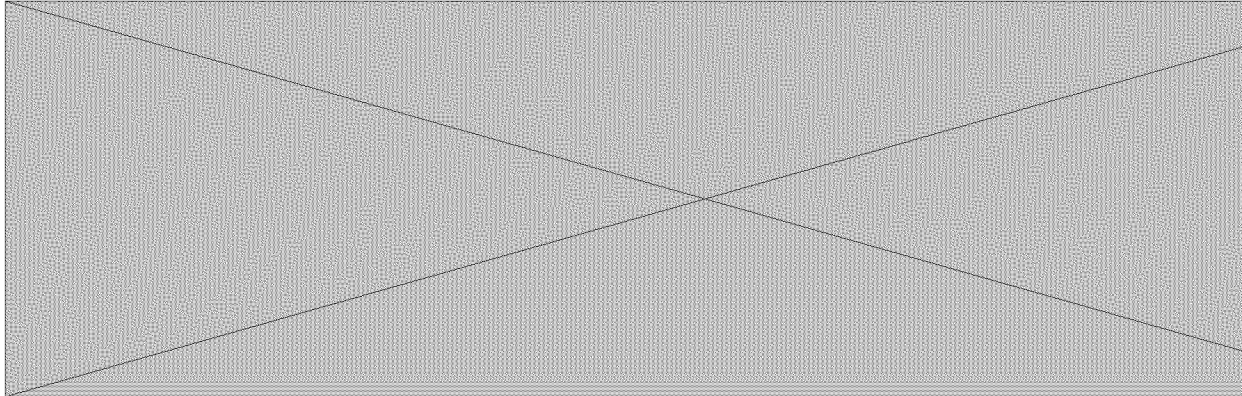


To: Manville, Jennifer[manville.jennifer@epa.gov]
From: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Sent: Wed 12/28/2016 2:01:48 PM
Subject: Aquila Back Forty project gains conditional approvals by MDEQ; faces significant remaining hurdles

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December 28, 2016

For More Information:

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Aquila Back Forty project gains conditional approvals by MDEQ; faces significant remaining hurdles

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) today announced the conditional approval of two permits sought by Aquila Resources Inc. for its proposed Back Forty Mine Project in Lake Township, Menominee County, Michigan.

The department gave conditional approvals to the company's applications for a Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit (Mining Permit), and the Michigan Air Use Permit to Install.

These decisions come after comprehensive and detailed reviews of the applications and careful consideration of the comments received throughout the review process.

The company must acquire two additional permits, National Pollution Elimination System (NPDES) permit and a permit for wetland, inland lake and stream impacts.

The Mining Permit is not effective, meaning no mining or site preparation may commence, until the applicant acquires all necessary permits and has provided the MDEQ with the required financial surety.

Additional information on requirements for approval of the Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit (Mining Permit) is online:

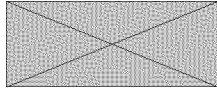
[www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(5xljemkeyhsfudaj5wumatq2\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-63205](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5xljemkeyhsfudaj5wumatq2))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-63205)

Additional information on the Michigan Air Use Permit to Install is online:
www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3310_70487-11390--,00.html

The DEQ is dedicated to respect for Michigan's citizens, stewardship of the environment, and support for a sustainable economy.

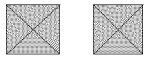
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